

February 18, 2004

USIBWC COMMISSIONER DURAN TAKES THE OATH OF OFFICE

U.S. District Judge Kathleen Cardone today administered the oath of office to U.S. Commissioner Arturo Duran, 37, of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, during a formal ceremony in El Paso, Texas. President George W. Bush appointed Duran to succeed Carlos M. Ramirez who resigned late last year for health reasons.

In the post of Commissioner, Duran serves as agency head of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), directing activities in twelve offices. The Commission is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico and settling differences that arise in the application of the treaties.

Nearly 200 people attended the ceremony, including elected officials, agency representatives from throughout the border region, members of the Duran family, and Commission staff.

Following his swearing-in, Commissioner Duran remarked that he intends to promote partnerships with government agencies, community groups, and the private sector. "We want to be a partner so that together we can leverage resources to improve quality of life in the border region," he said.

Prior to his appointment to the Commission, Duran served as General Manager of the Lower Valley Water District in Clint, Texas from 2000 until 2003. In that capacity, he oversaw

all district operations related to water, wastewater, solid waste, parks and recreation, and flood control services. He also worked as a Manager and Environmental Coordinator with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). While at EPA, he coordinated the development and implementation of U.S. and Mexico border infrastructure and environmental programs.

Commissioner Duran was previously appointed by President George W. Bush to the Joint Public Advisory Committee of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, an international organization created by Canada, Mexico and the United States to address regional environmental concerns.

The Commission operates and maintains flood control levees, international storage reservoirs, diversion dams, wastewater treatment plants, and boundary monuments at various locations on the U.S.-Mexico border. In addition to its Headquarters in El Paso, Texas, the U.S. Section has offices at San Diego, California; Nogales and Yuma, Arizona; Las Cruces, New Mexico; El Paso/American Dam, Ft. Hancock, Presidio, Del Rio/Amistad Dam, Falcon Heights/Falcon Dam, and Mercedes in Texas; and Washington, DC. The USIBWC receives foreign policy guidance from the U.S. Department of State.

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